

I do intend to speak out and I intend to use whatever leverage I have as a Senator to continue to push on this question. If Senators have reasons for objecting to Mr. Hormel's nomination, let them come out here and speak. Let us have an honest debate. If, God forbid, there are objections to him based upon his sexual orientation, then I think the U.S. Senate needs to look at itself in the mirror, because I think we can do better than that.

I yield the floor and reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEMENT AND JESSIE STONE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to mark a special date in the lives of two of my friends, Clement and Jessie Stone, who celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary this past weekend.

Mr. Stone is well known to people throughout the world as a successful executive, a generous philanthropist, and for his writings on topics related to business, management, and positive thinking. Millions of people have read his inspirational books, and his insightful advice on the above topics has changed countless lives for the better. Few people are as well known, well read, or well regarded, as Clement Stone and he can truly be proud of all that he has accomplished in his rich and long life.

Despite his considerable wealth, his many awards and recognitions, and his international fame, I am certain that the one thing Clement Stone values and treasures more than anything else in life is his marriage to his high school sweetheart, a union that has lasted three-quarters of one century. It is almost unheard of for two people to be married for 75-years, but Jessie and Clement have not only done so, but I am told that their affection and regard for one another has not waned one bit since they exchanged vows on June 16, 1923. Without question, they are an inspiration to one and all.

As Clement and Jessie mark this auspicious milestone in their lives and their marriage, they will be doing so with friends and family, including a large number of grandchildren and

great grandchildren. I join all of them in wishing the Stones a happy anniversary and many more years of health and happiness.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 22, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,496,659,912,687.35 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-six billion, six hundred fifty-nine million, nine hundred twelve thousand, six hundred eighty-seven dollars and thirty-five cents).

Five years ago, June 22, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,299,889,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred ninety-nine billion, eight hundred eighty-nine million).

Ten years ago, June 22, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,526,369,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred twenty-six billion, three hundred sixty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, June 22, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,303,008,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred three billion, eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 22, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$453,584,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-three billion, five hundred eighty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,043,075,912,687.35 (Five trillion, forty-three billion, seventy-five million, nine hundred twelve thousand, six hundred eighty-seven dollars and thirty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

THE VIOLENT AND REPEAT OFFENDER ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since S. 10 was voted out of the Judiciary Committee almost one year ago, I have spoken on the floor of the Senate and at hearings on numerous occasions to urge its Republican sponsors to work with me in a bipartisan and open manner to improve this juvenile crime bill. Instead of dialogue, the sponsors of this legislation have played games of "Hide and Seek" with the revisions they were making to the bill.

I am delighted to see reflected in the brief "DRAFT" summary circulated by the sponsors of the bill that they are finally and belatedly making certain changes that they voted down during the Committee's consideration of this bill. The "devil is in the details", however, so I and my Democratic colleagues are eager to see the full text of this revised bill.

Unfortunately, the sponsors of this bill were not willing to work with me last year when we would have had a much better chance of moving this important legislation. Now, as we head toward the end of this Congress and still face a number of vital appropriations matters to consider, time is running out to complete action on a juvenile crime bill. Those who will suffer from the dilatory manner in which this bill was handled are the children of this country and America's law enforcement officers and prosecutors who are eager for the additional resources available in this bill.

I am delighted to see that the legislation is being revised to include changes proposed by Democrats that the Republican sponsors previously rejected, including:

Retention of State Presumption to Prosecute Juveniles: The revised S. 10 will apparently preserve the "presumption in favor of state prosecution" for juveniles who face concurrent state and federal jurisdiction over the offense committed. This language is clearly based on amendments I and others proposed to avoid the federalization of juvenile crime that has prompted expressions of concern by Chief Justice Rehnquist and the Judicial Conference States have had primary responsibility for handling juvenile cases, and they should continue to do so.

Death Penalty: The new S. 10 apparently would not subject juveniles to the federal death penalty, another policy which Democratic members of the Committee insisted upon during Committee debate. As introduced, S. 10 allowed the imposition of the death penalty for juveniles as young as sixteen.

Increased Flexibility for the Incentive Block Grant program: The strict earmarks in this block grant for building more juvenile facilities, drug testing juveniles and enhancing State recordkeeping systems would have imposed a one-size-fits-all strait jacket on the States. The sponsors of the bill, apparently, have finally recognized how critical it is to provide flexibility to the States because State and local officials are much better able to determine how to reduce juvenile delinquency rates in their own communities.

Revised Recordkeeping Provisions: For over a year, I have repeatedly told my colleagues that no State in the nation would be eligible for S. 10's Incentive Block Grant, since none currently complies with the strict recordkeeping requirements. Moreover, at my request, the Department of Justice conducted a study which concluded that the extensive recordkeeping requirements in this bill would cost States "hundreds of millions of dollars." I urged the authors of this bill to narrow the focus of the recordkeeping to those juveniles who are most likely to be repeat offenders, namely, those who commit acts which would be a felony if committed by an adult. The sponsors have apparently finally heeded these common sense concerns and promise to correct these flaws—even though they voted down amendments I proposed to make these corrections.

Increased Funding for Prosecutors: The sponsors have also finally agreed to double the funds available to prosecutors. It is unfortunate that they refused to work this out in Committee last year so that additional prosecutors could be at work right now.